

SECTION 4. GOALS

The Energy Strategy recommends five countywide goals that will help address the long-term energy needs of San Mateo County in an environmentally, socially and fiscally responsible manner. The goals and milestones are intended to serve as a roadmap for individual jurisdictions and the county overall.

ENERGY

Like transportation and air quality, energy use affects the county as a whole, so reducing overall energy drawn from the electric grid is essential to achieving countywide economic and environmental benefits.

Goal 1:

Throughout San Mateo County, reduce the amount of power purchased from utilities to 25 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, using a combination of energy efficiency, demand reduction and local generation of clean, renewable energy.

Comment: This goal is explicitly intended to decrease the demand for energy produced at power plants and transmitted over power lines, and offers local governments a choice of methods to attain the goal. [t1]Improving energy efficiency lowers the overall demand for energy without imposing any sacrifice or hardship. Demand reduction[t2] shifts discretionary energy use to off-peak hours when energy is more plentiful. Solar electric systems, fuel cells, biogas plants and other types of clean, local generation facilities are cost-effective and environmentally preferred means to meet energy needs.

Milestone 1:

Establish the baseline power purchase level (2005 electricity and natural gas purchases from PG&E) for each community and for the county as a whole

To meet the countywide energy reduction goal, an accurate baseline level of countywide energy is needed. Each community will need to establish its individual baseline to track its own efforts, and the sum of the 21 jurisdictional baselines will serve as the overall countywide baseline.

Timeline: Complete the baseline for each community by _____ and for the county as a whole by _____

Status: The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is sponsoring a series of free, one-day workshops for cities and counties in the nine-county Bay Area in September 2007. Agency staff (or consultants working on behalf of an agency) will be able to complete a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory during the workshop. The inventory will include data on each community's power purchases in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors, which can serve as the baseline for the Energy Strategy goal.

The Energy Strategy recommends that all communities within San Mateo County participate in the Air District workshop. If a jurisdiction is unable to participate, an intern will be assigned to complete the inventory on behalf of the jurisdiction.

Milestone 2:

Set individual community targets that, when combined, will ensure the countywide energy goal is met

The simplest way to meet the countywide 25 percent energy reduction goal is for each of the 21 jurisdictions in the county to reduce local energy consumption by 25 percent. However, the goal is designed to allow communities flexibility in how they meet the net-reduction target. Thus, a community can meet the target through a combination of energy efficiency and local clean energy production, or by generating enough clean energy to lower its purchases from PG&E by 25 percent.

Communities may also choose to work together to meet their targets. For example, City A may believe it can only reduce its communitywide power purchases by 15 percent, but City B plans to generate more than enough clean energy to meet its own target and enough to cover City A's 10 percent gap. The two cities will be able to "pool" their targets, as long as the result is an overall 25 percent reduction in power purchases from both cities. [t3]

Timeline: Each community accepts the 25 percent target or proposes an alternative arrangement by _____; individual targets are confirmed by _____

Status: C/CAG will establish a working group where representatives from each community can discuss how they plan to meet the Energy Strategy goals and facilitate a "pooling" system among the jurisdictions if desired. The working group is expected to be in place by _____. [t4]

Milestone 3:

Develop plans to meet the energy reduction goal

Most communities within the county are showing increasing interest in climate protection activities, and several are already engaged in developing their climate action plan (CAP). The measures necessary to meet the energy reduction goal are the same as those needed to meet a greenhouse gas reduction goal in a CAP and vice versa. Cities that are not yet engaged in climate protection planning can get started by developing plans to meet the energy reduction goal.

Timeline: Plans are in place for 25 percent of San Mateo County communities by _____; for 50 percent of the communities by _____ and for all communities by _____

Status: Detailed suggestions on how to develop an energy reduction plan are included in the Energy Strategy Report. Communities that are ready to develop Climate Action Plans can get help from nonprofit organizations and other Bay Area communities.

Milestone 4:

Assess the status of the energy reduction plans and progress toward the goal in each community and the county as a whole

Accurate, ongoing assessments are needed to determine whether individual communities and the county overall have the resources necessary to meet the energy reduction goals.

Timeline: Conduct qualitative and quantitative assessments every two years, beginning in _____

Status: The USTF or another entity can be convened to check on the status of efforts throughout the county. The analysis should identify resource gaps, best practices and further opportunities to share knowledge and resources.

WATER

The communities in San Mateo County are highly dependent upon a single water supply, the Hetch Hetchy regional water system. The system is vulnerable to shortages due to drought and changing weather patterns. As with energy, a countywide effort is required to ensure a safe, reliable and affordable supply of water.

Goal 2:

Throughout San Mateo County, reduce water purchases to 10 percent [t5]below the projected 2020 potable water use levels and to 15 percent [t6]below the projected 2030 potable water use levels, so that water purchases from the Hetch Hetchy regional water system stay within the Supply Assurances for San Mateo County.

Comment: This goal is explicitly intended to decrease the demand for water purchased from the Hetch Hetchy regional water system. Governments may choose to meet the goal through water conservation and/or water reclamation and. [t7]

Milestone 1:

Establish the 2005 water use level for each community and for the county as a whole

As with energy, it is necessary to establish a baseline water use level for each jurisdiction and the county as a whole so progress can be tracked.

Timeline: Complete the baseline for each community and the county as a whole by _____

Status: Water use data for every community in the county has already been obtained by the USTF and can be provided to appropriate personnel from each jurisdiction. The sum of the 21 jurisdictional baselines will serve as the county's overall baseline.

Milestone 2:

Set individual community targets that, when combined, will ensure the countywide water conservation goal is met

As with the energy goal, a community may choose to augment its actual water use reductions by increasing its use of "self-generated" water—rainwater, greywater and recycled water. The assumption is that the overall county water conservation goals will be met by each community achieving the 10[t8] percent and 15[t9] percent reductions in water use.

As with the energy goal, communities can collaborate or exchange value with one another to meet their individual water purchase reduction targets, as long as the result meets their combined goal.[t10]

Timeline: Each community accepts the 10 and 15 percent targets [t11] or proposes an alternative arrangement by _____; individual targets are confirmed by _____

Status: C/CAG will establish a working group where representatives from each community can meet to discuss how they plan to meet the Energy Strategy goals and facilitate a “pooling” system among the jurisdictions if desired. The working group is expected to be in place by _____.

Milestone 3:

Develop plans to meet the water conservation goal

Water conservation is not a standard component of a Climate Action Plan at this time, and fewer resources are available to assist cities in developing their plans. However, certain energy efficiency programs also minimize water use and some local governments have implemented highly effective water saving programs that can be replicated elsewhere.

Timeline: Plans are in place for 25 percent of San Mateo County communities by _____; for 50 percent of the communities by _____ and for all communities by _____

Status: Elements of a water conservation plan are included in the Energy Strategy Report and assistance in formulating a plan is available from BAWSCA.

Milestone 4:

Assess the status of the water conservation plans and progress toward the goal in each community and the county as a whole

Accurate, ongoing assessments are needed to determine whether individual communities and the county overall have the resources necessary to meet the energy reduction goals.

Timeline: Conduct qualitative and quantitative assessments every two years, beginning in _____

Status: The USTF or another entity can be convened to check on the status of efforts throughout the county. The analysis should identify resource gaps, best practices and further opportunities to share knowledge and resources.

COLLABORATION

The issues addressed in this Energy Strategy are complex and will become more so after greenhouse gas regulations are issued at the state (and perhaps federal) level. Working together, the communities of San Mateo County can successfully respond to both environmental challenges and opportunities.

Goal 3:

Increase effectiveness by partnering with utilities and working collaboratively within the county and region.

The energy crisis of 2000-2001 and construction of the Jefferson-Martin transmission line in San Mateo County underscored the need for local governments to be more engaged in the energy planning process.

Milestone 1:

4 | San Mateo County Energy Strategy: draft with revised goals for discussion at the 8/16 meeting

Establish an effective, interactive relationship with PG&E for long-term planning and communications

Timeline: Develop a process by August 2007 and implement it by December 2007

Status: This milestone has been partly achieved. A new collaboration and communication process has been developed to keep local governments in San Mateo County informed about upcoming PG&E projects and engaged in the energy planning process. (The process is described in Appendix B.)

Milestone 2:

Establish an effective, interactive relationship with local water suppliers for long-term planning and communications. [t12]

Timeline: Develop a draft process by _____ and implement by _____

Status: BAWSCA will review and adopt (or adapt, as needed) the PG&E communication process. [t13]

Milestone 3:

Effect a change in state policy to permit local governments to use their clean energy production credits to any of their accounts. [t14]

Restrictions on net-metering currently prohibit most jurisdictions from using energy credits earned at one government facility (e.g. from a solar electric system on a fire station) to be applied to other facilities (e.g. city hall). A change in this law would provide local governments with more options for generating their own power cost-effectively.

Timeline: Propose and promote a bill or pursue an alternative strategy to achieve the same ends by _____

Status: A subcommittee of the USTF is working with PG&E and state legislators to craft a solution acceptable to all parties.

Milestone 4:

Establish an effective process for helping individual communities set and meet their targets [t15]

Individual jurisdictions may wish to work in partnership with other local governments to meet the goals. For example, one city may find it hard to influence its residents to conserve enough water to meet the water conservation goal, but find them willing to generate more than enough local, clean energy to meet the energy reduction goal. By working across borders and tapping the region's diverse strengths, the countywide goals will be more easily met.

Timeline: Establish a working group by _____; develop a draft proposal by _____ and reach agreement on individual targets by _____

Status: C/CAG will establish a working group where representatives from each community can meet to discuss how they plan to meet the Energy Strategy goals and facilitate a “cap-and-trade” system among the jurisdictions if desired. The working group is expected to be in place by _____.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

San Mateo County is already home to several clean technology companies. By working with other cities in the region and industry groups, the county may be able to support and attract more such firms.

Goal 4:

Strengthen the long-term economic health of the county by supporting the clean technology sector.

Milestone 1:

????????????[t16]

SHARED LEADERSHIP

Every day, individuals, businesses and local governments make choices that impact the environment. Only by understanding the impact of their choices and making better ones, in every sector and at every level, can San Mateo County achieve the goals of the Energy Strategy and realize the related benefits.

Goal 5:

Involve all government departments, the business community and residents in efforts to achieve the Energy Strategy’s countywide goals.

Milestone 1:

Identify one or more elected officials and staff members to take the lead on energy, water and climate issues in each jurisdiction

Environmental issues, especially climate protection, will only become more important in the coming years. Designating at least a few leaders in every community will make it easier to gain traction, exchange information and make meaningful progress toward goals.

Timeline: Provide names, titles and contact information for the designated individuals to the Energy Strategy by _____

Status: Most of the jurisdictions in the county have identified a staff member to participate in the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Climate Protection Task Force, and many also have elected officials who are actively involved with climate and sustainability issues. Confirming and communicating the right contact points will facilitate progress toward both the Energy Strategy and climate protection goals.

[t17]

Working together, the goals are achievable. San Mateo County can be a leader in the statewide effort to improve energy efficiency, conserve water and embrace clean energy.

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Sections 5 and 6 of the Energy Strategy offer explicit guidance on how San Mateo County can meet or exceed these five goals.